

DI Strategy: Using Individual Student White Boards

What are White Boards?

Small, individual, dry erase boards that allow students to draw...erase....and draw some more!
Ideally, you will have access to a class set.....and lots of dry erase markers!

Rationale Behind Using White Boards in the Classroom:

I have the students use whiteboard for any activity that I would normally have them do on paper that is not necessary for them to keep, such as: rough work, brainstorming, creating questions, etc. I have found that by using this simple switch from paper to white boards, the students participate MUCH more in the rough work process that they would normally skip or feel isn't necessary. They also have more fun and actually get excited when I bring the boards out.

I am continually surprised when I see how much fun students have with such a simple change in approach.....I don't think they realize that they're actually doing MORE work!

Suggested Uses:

Brainstorming

This allows students to create mind maps or idea webs. I often have students switch markers to add additional ideas that come up through sharing. The use of different colours makes it easy to identify new or different ideas.

Think Pair Share

Students can work through their own ideas to create definitions, ideas, images, etc. and then compare with a partner to create a group response. Since they can erase and re-draw, it's great for creating a working-response.

"Storm The Board"

This is a more informal Think-Pair-Share activity, where students can create their personal response/idea list/etc on their individual boards. I then invite them to "*Storm the Board*" by bringing their markers and mini boards up to the front to create a master list on the class whiteboard.

Rough work

Students can take point form notes from a reading/text/video and use this to create a formal response.

Illustrate or Doodle

Of course, it's always fun to draw!

Jigsaws

Students can get together in their expert groups with their individual boards and create a group response and then take their boards around with them as they travel to different groups. Again, since it's easy to erase and re-draw, it's great for creating a working-response.

Topic Stations

Each student can be given a board to take with them from station to station. Each station would have a different topic or focus, each with their own colour of dry erase markers for students to write their ideas/learning. In the end, they will have a multi-coloured board that they can use to create a summary/reflection/comparison/etc.

Immediate Response

Students can write Agree / True / ✓ on the top of the board, and Disagree / Disagree / ✗ on the bottom and raise them quickly as a personal response to questions

The Payoff

Students will:
Participate!
Work in teams!
Have fun!
Be creative!